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Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava (Zimbabwe), on the basis of informal consultations

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighteenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 67/221 of 21 December 2012, both on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the category of least developed countries,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, by which the Assembly endorsed the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2]

Recalling further its resolutions 1998/46 of 31 July 1998, 2007/34 of 27 July 2007 and 2013/20 of 24 July 2013,

Reiterating its conviction that no country graduating from the least developed country category should have its development progress disrupted or reversed,

Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining stability in the criteria and in the application of the established procedures for inclusion in and graduation from the least developed country category so as to ensure the credibility of the process and, consequently, of the category of least developed countries, while giving due consideration to the specific challenges and vulnerabilities and the development needs of countries potentially graduating or being considered for graduation from the least developed country category,

1. *Takes note of* the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its eighteenth session;[3]

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[2] Ibid., chap. II.
[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 13* (E/2016/33).

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2. *Notes with appreciation* the work done by the Committee on productive capacity for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in accordance with the theme of the high-level segment of the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council, on the theme selected by the Committee on total official support for sustainable development, on the monitoring of the development progress of countries that are graduating or have graduated from the list of least developed countries and on its review of a proposal for a graduation toolkit to further improve the capacity of least developed countries to address the implications of graduation in a systematic way;

3. *Requests* the Committee, at its nineteenth session, to examine and make recommendations on the annual theme of the 2017 session of the Council;

4. *Also requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries that have graduated from the category of least developed countries, in accordance with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 67/221;

5. *Further requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the category of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Council;

6. *Reiterates* the invitation by the General Assembly, as stated in its resolution 67/221, for graduating countries to prepare their national transition strategy with the support of the United Nations system and in cooperation with their bilateral and multilateral development and trading partners and to report annually to the Committee on the preparation of that strategy;

7. *Acknowledges with satisfaction* the contributions made by the Committee to the various aspects of the programme of work of the Council, reiterates its invitation for increased interactions between the Council and the Committee, and encourages the Chair and, as necessary, other members of the Committee, to continue this practice, as specified in Council resolution 2011/20 of 27 July 2011, within existing resources and as appropriate.